

The Lutheran Historical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania President's Report

The Lutheran Historical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania is a membership organization that focuses on congregations, institutions and events within the areas of the Southeastern and Northeastern Pennsylvania Synods of the ELCA. We are your historical society and thank you for your continuing support. Our synod areas include some of the oldest Lutheran congregations and sites in the country, over 125 dating from before 1776. The society regularly sponsors pilgrimages to historic congregations and sites. Each one provides us an opportunity to visit and see a congregation, its history and ministry and how it became a presence in the community in which it is located. We also publish a "Periodical" with articles of interest to the membership. We also promote the society at the two synod assemblies in our area. Several years ago we published the guidebook "Colonial Lutheran Churches and Historic Sites in Eastern Pennsylvania 1638-1775".

This past year we arranged two pilgrimages. The first was to Trinity, Perkasië; where we learned about the history and ministry of the congregation. We also experienced splendid concert of Ancient and Reformation era music and a mini lecture on the history of the organ. Our second pilgrimage was to Christ (Christ's) UCC and Lutheran, Trumbauersville. These two congregations once shared the same building. We saw how these congregations, now separated, combine traditional and contemporary ministries. Both are served by Lutheran pastors. Today we are at St. Paul's, Catasauqua where we will experience the surrounding community and visit a neighboring Lutheran congregation, Holy Trinity.

There are nearly 500 congregations in Eastern Pennsylvania and we look forward to invitations from congregations who wish to share their story. Congregations don't have to be old or celebrating an anniversary. We also publish a scholarly "Periodical". Our current issue is still in the making. We also are launching a new website. We have sponsored congregation heritage awards and a recent essay contest to encourage student interest.

The Lutheran Historical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania is a totally volunteer organization. All work is done by our members and our Board. I would like to thank our board for another year of faithful service. If you are interested please consider becoming a member, serving on the board or participating in our other activities. We are supported by membership dues and private contributions. Please share ideas that interest you and consider involving yourself in any special projects or activities. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Richard B. Baumann
President

November 17, 2018